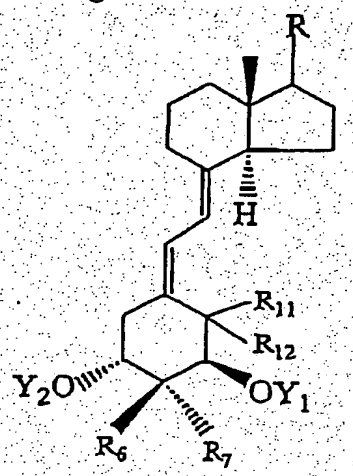
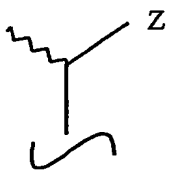
CLAIMS

1. A method of stimulating osteoblastic-mediated growth of new bone in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula:

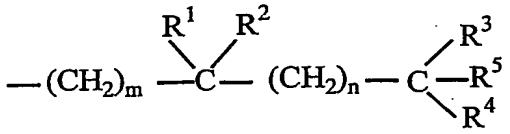


I

where Y_1 and Y_2, which may be the same or different, are each selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a hydroxy-protecting group, where R_{11} and R_{12} are each hydrogen or taken together are a methylene group, where R_6 and R_7, which may be the same or different, are each selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy and alkoxy, with the proviso that R_6 and R_7 cannot both be hydrogen, or R_6 and R_7 when taken together may represent the group $-(CH_2)_x-$ where X is an integer from 2 to 5, or R_6 and R_7 when taken together may represent the group $=CR_8R_9$ where R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are each selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy and alkoxy, or when taken together R_8 and R_9 may represent the group $-(CH_2)_x-$ where X is an integer from 2 to 5, and where the group R represents



where the stereochemical center (corresponding to C-20 in steroid numbering) may have the R or S configuration, (i.e. either the natural configuration about carbon 20 or the 20-epi configuration), and where Z is selected from Y, -OY, -CH_2OY, -C≡CY and -CH=CHY, where the double bond may have the cis or trans geometry, and where Y is selected from hydrogen, methyl, -COR^5 and a radical of the structure:



where m and n, independently, represent the integers from 0 to 5, where R^1 is selected from hydrogen, deuterium, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, fluoro, trifluoromethyl, and C_{1-5}-alkyl, which may be straight chain or branched and, optionally, bear a hydroxy or protected-hydroxy substituent, and where each of R^2, R^3, and R^4, independently, is selected from deuterium, deuteroalkyl, hydrogen, fluoro, trifluoromethyl and C_{1-5} alkyl, which may be straight-chain or branched, and optionally, bear a hydroxy or protected-hydroxy substituent, and where R^1 and R^2, taken together, represent an oxo group, or an alkylidene group, $=CR^2R^3$, or the group -$(CH_2)_p$-, where p is an integer from 2 to 5, and where R^3 and R^4, taken together, represent an oxo group, or the group -$(CH_2)_q$-, where q is an integer from 2 to 5, and where R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, or C_{1-5} alkyl and wherein any of the CH-groups at positions 20, 22, or 23 in the side chain may be replaced by a nitrogen atom, or where any of the groups -$CH(CH_3)$-, -$(CH_2)_m$-, -CR_1R_2- or -$(CH_2)_n$- at positions 20, 22, and 23, respectively, may be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered orally.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the compounds is administered parenterally.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered transdermally.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered topically.

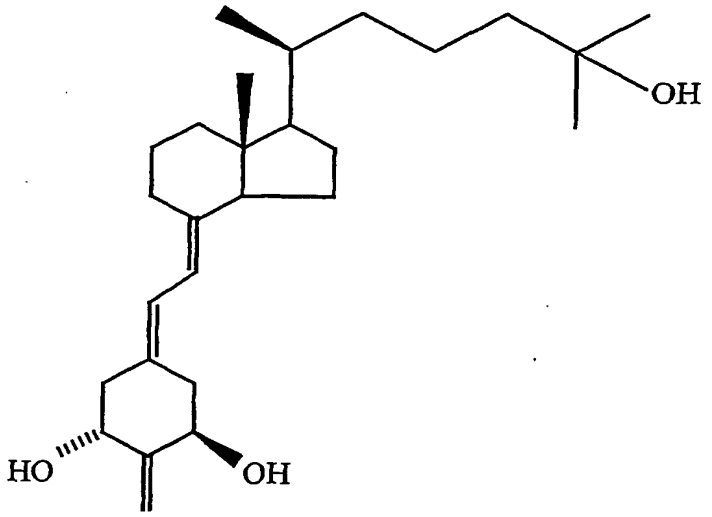
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in an immobilized form at a site where growth of new bone is desired.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in a slow release form at a site where growth of new bone is desired.

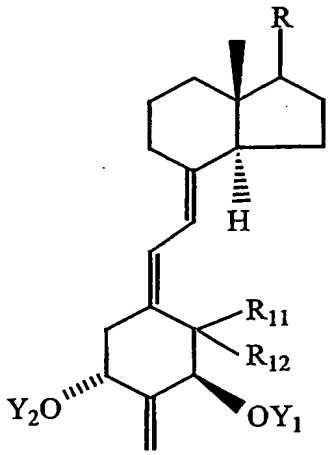
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in a dosage of from 0.01μg to 50μg per day.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is 2-methylene-19-nor-20(S)-1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 having the formula:



11. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is an acylated derivative having the formula:



where Y^1 and Y^2 independently represent hydrogen or an acyl group, and with the proviso that R^5 is $-OY_3$ and Y_3 is selected from the group consisting of acyl or a hydrocarbyloxycarbonyl.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is a triacetate such that Y_1, Y_2 and Y_3 and each CH_3CO-.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound as a trihexanoate such that Y_1, Y_2 and Y_3 are each $CH_3(CH_2)_4CO$-.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is a trinonanoate such that Y_1, Y_2 and Y_3 are each $CH_3(CH_2)_7CO$-.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is a 25-acetate such that Y_1 and Y_2 are both hydrogen and Y_3 is CH_3CO-.

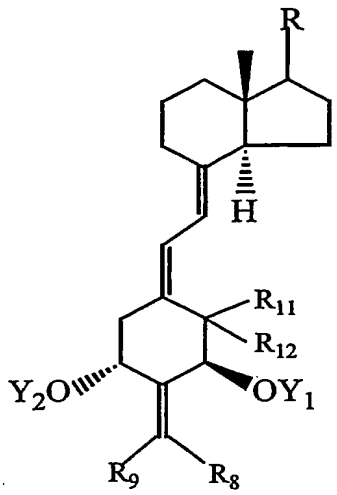
16. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is 2-methylene-19-nor-1α,25(OH)$_2$-D_3-1,3,25-triacetate.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is 2-methylene-19-nor-1α,25(OH)$_2$-D_3-1,3,25-trihexanoate.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is 2-methylene-19-nor-1α,25(OH)$_2$-D_3-1,3,25-trinonanoate.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is 2-methylene-19-nor-1α,25(OH)$_2$-D_3-25-acetate.

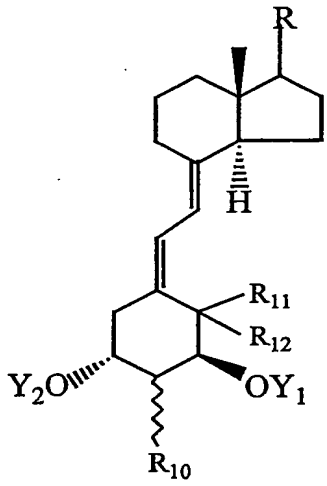
20. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is selected from the group consisting of:



V

where Y_1, Y_2, R_{11}, R_{12} and R are as defined in claim 1 and R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are each selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl and fluoroalkyl, or, when taken together represent the group $-(CH_2)_X-$ where X is an integer from 2 to 5.

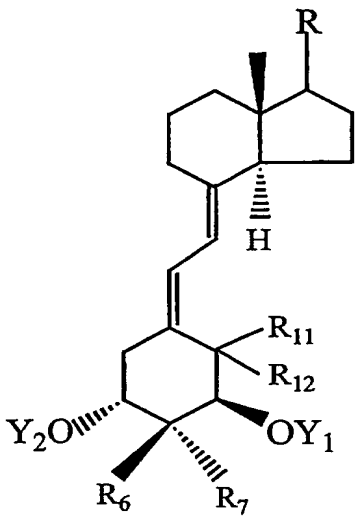
21. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is selected from the group consisting of:



VI

where Y_1, Y_2, R_{11} and R_{12} and R are as defined in claim 1 and R_{10} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxyalkyl and fluoroalkyl.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is selected from the group consisting of:



VII

where Y_1, Y_2, R_{11}, R_{12}, R_6, R_7 and R are as defined in claim 1 with the proviso that R^5 is $-OY_3$ and Y_3 is selected from the group consisting of an acyl or a hydrocarbyloxycarbonyl.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered to stimulate healing of a bone fracture.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered to stimulate healing of a bone transplant.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered to stimulate solidification of an implant in bone.

26. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered to stimulate osseointegration of a dental implant.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered to stimulate periodontal bone.

28. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered following a distraction osteogenesis procedure.